

Message Text

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SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-03 NSC-07 SS-20 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIEP-02 COME-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 INT-08 OMB-01

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DRAFTED BY EUR/NE;APINKNEY:CN

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EUR/NE - WABUELL, JR.

EUR - MR. STABLER

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R 080022Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OSLO

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 046641

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EC, NATO, EI, SW, JA, ENRG, NO

SUBJECT: RELATIONS WITH THE EC

1. AMBASSADOR SOMMERFELT OF NORWAY SAW MR. HARTMAN ON MARCH 7. HE ASKED ABOUT PRESS REPORTS OF DIFFICULTIES THAT HAVE ARISEN BETWEEN THE US AND THE EC AS A RESULT OF THE LATTER'S RECENTLY ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR COOPERATION WITH ARAB OIL PRODUCING NATIONS. MR. HARTMAN'S REPLY FOLLOWS: THE PROBLEM DOES NOT INVOLVE A FIT OF PERSONAL PIQUE BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT. THE UNITED STATES FEELS THAT IT HAS ARRIVED AT A POINT WHERE IT CAN NOW PUT A FINGER ON THE SOURCE OF THE PROBLEM WITH THE EC--A MATTER WHICH UP TO NOW SEEMED TO CENTER ON THE QUESTION OF WORDS TO BE USED IN THE PROPOSED EC "YEAR OF EUROPE" DECLAR-
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ATION. IT IS A TWO-PRONGED PROBLEM. FIRST, THE UNITED

STATES FEELS THAT IT HAS SUBSTANTIVE VIEWS ABOUT AN EC NINE APPROACH TO THE ARABS, INCLUDING THE PLAN TO CONVENE A FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, WHICH, WE THINK, IF THE LAHORE MEETING WAS ANY INDICATION, WOULD ONLY SERVE TO RADICALIZE THE ARAB POSITION. WE WERE NEVER APPROACHED BY THE EC TO SEE IF THEIR MOVE MIGHT INTERFERE WITH OUR VERY DELICATE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. EVEN WHEN THE UNITED STATES BEGAN TO GET INFORMATION ON THE PLAN AT THE TIME OF THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE, WE WERE ASSURED BY DOUGLAS-HOME AND SCHEEL THAT WHAT WAS BEING CONTEMPLATED WAS A PURELY TECHNICAL PROJECT WHICH WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS AND WOULD NOT INVOLVE THE OIL

CRISIS. WHEN THE SECRETARY WAS LAST IN BONN HE WAS TOLD THAT THE EC WAS AWARE OF US CONCERNS, AND HE WAS GIVEN THE SAME ASSURANCES AGAIN, INCLUDING ONE THAT ANY POSSIBLE MINISTERIAL MEETING WOULD BE IN THE DISTANT FUTURE, IF EVER. THE SECRETARY ASSURED SCHEEL THAT, PROVIDED THE EC HAD ALL THE RELEVANT INFORMATION FROM THE UNITED STATES BEARING ON THE EC PLAN, WE WOULD ABIDE BY THE EC DECISION, BUT WE WANTED TO BE HEARD IN FULL BEFORE THAT DECISION. AND YET THE VERY NEXT DAY THE EC PLAN WAS ANNOUNCED, INCLUDING A POSSIBLE MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS. WE FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO IMAGINE A MEETING WITH TWENTY ARAB NATIONS THAT DOES NOT TALK ABOUT OIL OR POLITICS. THE ARABS ARE SURE TO QUESTION THE FEASIBILITY OF COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITH NATIONS NOT WILLING TO HELP THEM WITH THEIR POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

2. MR. HARTMAN CONTINUED THAT THE SECOND PART OF THE PROBLEM IS RELATED TO THE FIRST AND INVOLVES PROCEDURE. THE FRENCH ARE THE ONLY NATION OF THE EC WHICH IS SAYING THAT THERE CAN BE NO CONSULTATION WITH NATIONS OUTSIDE THE EC UNTIL AFTER AN EC DECISION IS TAKEN, A STANCE WHICH, OF COURSE, PRECLUDES ANY MEANINGFUL OUTSIDE INPUT. THIS CONTINUING LACK OF A DIALOGUE ON POLITICAL ISSUES IS BROUGHT EVEN MORE SHARPLY INTO FOCUS BY THE FACT THAT GENUINE CONSULTATIONS ARE THE RULE IN THE EC ON ECONOMIC MATTERS AND IN NATO IN ALL FIELDS. THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT INSIST THAT IT BE CONSULTED ON EVERY ISSUE BUT DOES MAIN-
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TAINT THAT IT SHOULD BE BROUGHT IN ON ISSUES WHERE US VITAL INTERESTS ARE AT PLAY. IT APPEARS THAT THE FRENCH FEEL THAT THE ONLY WAY TO DEVELOP A EUROPEAN IDENTITY IS TO ESTABLISH OPPOSITION TO THE UNITED STATES. THE DANGER IN THIS IS THAT THE UNITED STATES TOO COULD "FLOAT" ITS POLICIES. THE FRENCH ARGUE THAT THE EC DOES NOT YET REPRESENT A UNIFIED BODY AND THAT THE U.S. MIGHT WELL OVERWHELM THE ORGANIZATION. THIS IS, HOWEVER, ONLY A

THEORY AND THE FACT OF U.S. POWER AND ITS INTERESTS EXISTS NO MATTER WHAT THE CONDITION OF THE EC. UNFORTUNATELY, THE FRENCH APPEAR TO BE THE ONLY GOVERNMENT WITH A DEFINITE POLICY. THE OTHERS SEEM TO WISH PLACATE US, AS THEY DID AT THE ENERGY CONFERENCE, AND THEN WEAKLY TURN AND, REACTING TO FRENCH INTRANSIGENCE, PLACATE THEM. THEREFORE, BEFORE THESE ATTITUDES BECOME IMBEDDED, THE UNITED STATES WANTS TO DISCUSS SERIOUSLY THE PROBLEMS THEY ENGENDER. WE ARE NOW REVIEWING CAREFULLY OUR DISCUSSIONS OF THE EC DRAFT DECLARATION TO SEE IF THE PROBLEMS COULD BE GOTTEN AT IN THIS WAY.

3. IN THE DISCUSSION WHICH FOLLOWED, SOMMERFELT NOTED THAT HE HAD OBTAINED A RATHER DIFFERENT VERSION FROM

THE GERMANS, WHO FELT THAT THE ISSUE HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED. HARTMAN NOTED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD REPEATEDLY MADE IT CLEAR TO SCHEEL WHY THE PLAN WAS A BAD ONE AND YET THE PLAN WAS ADOPTED WITHOUT DELAY. HARTMAN EMPHASIZED THAT WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO A EUROPEAN ROLE IN THE MID-EAST BUT IT MUST BE DONE IN PARALLEL WITH WHAT WE ARE DOING THERE, NOT AT CROSS PURPOSES.

4. ON HOW THE SITUATION MIGHT AFFECT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP. HARTMAN NOTED THAT OUR ATTITUDE WILL BE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT AT THAT MEETING FROM THAT WHICH WE HAVE DISPLAYED UP TO NOW. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO SEE IF THE OTHER NATIONS REALLY ARE SERIOUS ABOUT THE ENDEAVOR, FOR, IF NOT, WE CAN ALWAYS GO OUR OWN WAY. HE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL PEOPLE WANT TO GET ON WITH THE WORK KNOWING THAT WE MUST HAVE IDEAS FORMULATED WHEN WE BEGIN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRODUCERS. IT IS ONLY THE POLITICAL PEOPLE WHO SEEM TO CONFIDENTIAL

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WANT TO DO NO MORE THAN "PLACATE" THE UNITED STATES. ASKED HOW HE SAW THE NEW BRITISH GOVERNMENT ON ENERGY QUESTIONS, HARTMAN THOUGHT THEY WOULD PROBABLY NOT MAKE ANY DRAMATIC DEPARTURES.

5. SOMMERFELT STATED THAT HE HOPED THAT TALKS ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF CONSULTATION WOULD NOT BE RESTRICTED JUST TO THE EC AND THE US AS NORWAY TOO IS INVOLVED IN THE WHOLE ISSUE. HARTMAN REPLIED THAT IF WE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN MAKING A DENT IN THE MATTER, HE THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD ALSO HELP OTHERS, LIKE NORWAY AND JAPAN. THE US WOULD LIKE TO COME BACK TO ITS IDEA OF A TRI-REGIONAL APPROACH TO COMMON INTERESTS AND PROBLEMS. KISSINGER

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